

SENATE READY TO ACCEDE TO CLERKS' RAISE

Overman, Head of Conference Committee, Admits House Has Won Fight.

INCREASE NOW IS ASSURED

Bill Sent Back to Conference With Victory for Federal Employees in Sight.

The Senate will give way to the House on the legislative bill, on the agricultural bill and other measures providing higher rates of pay for clerks and employees.

This was made known today by Senator Overman, head of the Conference committee on the legislative bill. He said the House had won. The legislative bill was sent back to conference by the Senate with the understanding the Senate would yield.

In other words, a general increase of pay for Government employees is assured amounting to 10 per cent for employees who do not receive over \$1,200 and to 5 per cent for employees receiving over \$1,200 and not over \$1,800.

Additional pay of about \$26,000,000 per annum for Government employees will result.

Victory for Federal Employees.

When the legislative bill was brought up by Senator Overman on the floor today, he recounted what had occurred in the Democratic caucus, when the economy resolution was passed, and also referred to the fact that the Senate had stood for the Smoot amendment. In view of the action on the Indian bill, however, he said the Senate conference would recede and yield to the House in the matter of pay increase.

Without objection, the bill was according sent back to conference and the controversy over pay, it is believed, is close to the end with a sweeping victory for the Federal employees no longer in doubt.

Senator Smoot said he thought it would have been better to increase by 15 per cent the pay of those not receiving over \$480, but he did not insist.

Expected to Agree Quickly.

The conferees of the Senate and House are expected today to agree quickly to legislation in all appropriation bills providing for a 5 and 10 per cent horizontal increase in the salaries of Government clerks, as originally proposed by the House.

Action of the House last night virtually assured a House victory all along the line. The Senate wrote into the Indian bill the 5 and 10 per cent amendment, and the House today sent back to conference the legislative, executive, and judicial appropriation bill, in order that the conferees might agree to the House provision in that bill.

Precedent Will Be Followed.

In conference the managers are scheduled to agree promptly to the 5 and 10 per cent raises and the conference reports will go through both houses.

PARIS LOSES AMMUNITION

Explosion on February 2 Kills 200, Injures 700.

BERLIN (via Sayville wireless), Feb. 27.—On February 22 a terrible explosion took place in the munition works at Paris, which ruined more than 80,000 tons of ammunition and killed 200 persons, declared the official press agency today, quoting a Frankfurter Zeitung report via Switzerland from a private source in Paris. Seven hundred were wounded, it was said.

"HOSTILE TRADERS" SUNK

Berlin Provides Statistics of U-Boat Activities for January.

BERLIN (via Sayville Wireless), Feb. 27.—During January 127 hostile merchant ships, totaling 365,000 gross tons, were lost by war measures of the central powers, said an official statement issued today.

"In addition 68 neutral merchant ships, with 103,500 gross tons, were sunk because they carried contraband for the enemy.

"The total monthly losses were 235 vessels, with 438,500 gross tons."

BIG NEWS FORCED OFF FIRST PAGE

Eighteen killed in railroad wreck. Page 9.

Clergy and laity praise Gypsy Smith. Page 6.

Germans pressed hard in retreat. Page 5.

City market may be result of food probe. Page 4.

Revised plans for Key bridge begun. Page 2.

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ASKS CARMEN TO AID SUCCESS OF INAUGURAL

W. R. & E. Co. Appeals to Men to Defer Wage Issue Till After March 5.

Called Duty to President

Company's Answer Will Be Read at Union Meeting Thursday.

In its reply to the demands of its employees for increased wages, the Washington Railway and Electric Company today appealed to the loyalty of the men to the company, the city and the country and suggested that discussion of the questions at issue be deferred until after the inauguration. The action was exclusively forecasted in The Times yesterday.

The company asks that the employees contribute their share for a successful inauguration by co-operating with the traction officials, the District Commissioners and the entire city in discharging "this duty which all of us owe to the President and the nation."

"We will then have ample time to calmly consider the situation and shall be pleased to take up any matters pertaining to the interests of our employees, as we have always been willing to do," President Clarence King said in his reply.

Not Addressed to Union.

At the headquarters of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employees, Local 659, officials of which presented the demands, said the reply would be read to the men at a meeting to be held Thursday.

While none of the officials of the union would predict what action would be taken by the assembled unionists on the reply, it was pointed out that the response was addressed to George A. Wilbur, Harry E. Jones, and Frank M. Thompson, "constituting the grievance committee of the employees of the Washington Railway and Electric Company," and not as representatives of the union.

Officials of the union said the opening paragraph of the reply made it plain that the Washington Railway and Electric Company had not recognized the union, and evidently did not intend doing so. This was one of the issues involved in last year's strike.

Letter to Carmen.

The Washington Railway and Electric Company's reply follows:

"We are in receipt of a recent communication which asks this company, in lieu of the existing contract with our employees, to consider the making of a new contract."

(Continued on Tenth Page.)

BOOSE BOAT IN BATTLE.

Captain and Mate of Elizabeth C. Wounded and Prisoners.

IRVINGTON, Va., Feb. 27.—Capt. Ike Bozman and mate of the schooner Elizabeth Clark, which has been cruising in the waters of the Rappahannock river selling whisky, it is alleged, in violation of the State prohibition laws, were prisoners in Lancaster county jail today, both badly wounded, as a result of an engagement between the schooner and the State oyster boat, Commodore Mauri, near here, in which the State vessel is reported to have swept the decks of the schooner with a three-inch gun.

A command to surrender is reported to have brought only a string of oaths and a volley of pistol shots from the other vessel. Captain Doggett then brought his gun into play.

GUARD STOPS LANSING

White House Policeman Insists on an Identification.

Secretary of State Lansing encountered the White House censorship this morning.

Entering the White House grounds by the west gate when summoned by the President for a conference on the Laconia tragedy, Secretary Lansing was held up by a White House policeman.

"The Secretary of State," Mr. Lansing said by way of giving the password, "did not satisfy the White House guard, who then called Sergeant Dalrymple. The latter passed the Secretary with alacrity."

EXIT NORWORTH DIVORCE

Actor's Wife Drops Her Suit, and Reconciliation Is Reported.

NEW YORK, Feb. 27.—A divorce suit brought by Mary Norworth against Jack Norworth, the actor, who formerly was the husband of Nora Bayes, has been discontinued in the supreme court.

It is said Norworth, after being served with the complaint of his wife, who is not an actress, hurried here from London without finishing his British contract.

A reconciliation between the two, it is reported, and the Norworths, who have two children, are now an untitled family.

WILSON CALLS SINKING OF LACONIA CLEAR CUT CASE NEEDING NO PROBE; OFFICIALS BELIEVE IT IS OVERT ACT

BROAD POWER FOR WILSON IN SENATE BILL

Foreign Relations Committee Probably Will Report Measure Today.

PARTISAN LINES FORGOTTEN

Republicans Show Disposition to Give Wilson Latitude in Present Crisis.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee will probably report to the Senate a resolution which will look to the immediate arming of merchant men against attack by German submarines.

This was strongly indicated shortly after noon today when the committee adjourned after a session of more than two hours and announced that it was making progress on a modification of the Flood bill and would meet again at 2:30 this afternoon in an effort to complete the work of shaping the measure.

While the language of the bill is not yet finally determined upon, it was declared by members of the committee that it would probably indicate the sentiments of the committee that the time has already come for merchant ships to be armed.

Will Confer Powers.

More than this, the bill, or resolution as the committee is expected to report it, will confer broad powers on the President with respect to the means of protecting American life and American rights and will authorize the proposed bond issue of \$100,000,000 which is provided for in the bill introduced in the House by Mr. Flood.

Willing to Assist.

The situation which developed in the committee today showed that the Republicans of the committee are willing and anxious to give the President authority to arm ships and that they want him to make prompt use of it.

While some of the Republicans on the committee are opposed to giving the President practically absolute authority to use such means as he sees fit, they have found that apart from the arming of ships it is difficult to specify exactly what means should be authorized.

Under the circumstances, the Republicans of the committee this morning showed a disposition to give the President much latitude.

It is understood that the emergency peace committee, which is actively working in this city to avert the entrance of the United States into the European war, is making a strong effort to secure Mr. Bryan for a meeting to be held tomorrow night at which Jane Addams and other notables in the peace movement are scheduled to participate.

It is possible that a number of meetings may be planned for different parts of the Capital.

A report by the Foreign Relations Committee of a resolution or bill which Republicans on the committee as well as Democrats support does not mean there will be no filibuster against it on the floor of the Senate.

Outcome Uncertain.

What the outcome will be is still highly uncertain. Senator La Follette and other Senators who greatly object to arming the country drift into war are expected to oppose the measure. A prolonged filibuster is likely to develop under the circumstances. The Republicans in the Senate are by no means united on the question of how far the President should be granted authority.

Those who hold that his authority should be extremely limited may yet block the passage of any bill or resolution and may succeed in forcing an armistice.

(Continued on Eleventh Page.)

The Times' Local News

Despite the increased cost of paper, The Times is constantly increasing its news service and space. In local news especially has it added to both quantity and quality until it is printing more local news than any paper in the city. The record for the six week days of last week was:

	Cols. of Local News	No. of Local Items
THE TIMES	133	784
Next paper...	95	495
Next paper...	65	341
Next paper...	64	514

All the News in The Times

TEXT OF CONSUL FROST'S MESSAGE

QUEENSTOWN, Feb. 27.—"Deaths of Mrs. and Miss Hoy, as previously reported, are positively confirmed. Cedric B. Ivatt, New York, probably American, is apparently lost.

"Total survivors landed here, 267; landed at Bantry, 14; total on board, 294.

"Missing, 13, of whom five drowned and eight, including Hoy ladies, died of exposure and were buried at sea.

"There are six hospital cases, one believed grave.

"First torpedo struck abaft engine. Steamer going seventeen to eighteen knots. Engine stopped and ship turned, listing starboard, so that most boats got off that side.

"Twenty minutes later, when most boats were clear, submarine fired second torpedo, striking engine port side.

"Ship sank in about 45 minutes from first torpedo.

"Had fired six rockets when seen by admiralty patrol. Wireless also used up to last moment. Boats scattered two or three miles in swells twelve feet high. Burned flares and were picked up between 3 and 4 a. m. 26th instant.

"WESLEY FROST, Consul."

President's Action Not Yet Decided—Crisis To Be Taken Up By Cabinet This Afternoon.

President Wilson regards the sinking of the Cunard liner Laconia by a German submarine as a "clear cut case requiring no further investigation."

This was the statement made in official quarters at 12:30 o'clock this afternoon following an hour's conference between the President and Secretary of State Lansing.

BELIEVED TO BE OVERT ACT.

It was indicated that the President regards the outrage as the "overt act" against which he solemnly warned Germany in his message to Congress of February 3, announcing the severance of diplomatic relations.

It is not yet known definitely, however, what the President is going to do. The Cabinet was scheduled to meet at 2:30 o'clock to discuss the situation.

It is thought not unlikely that the President may go before Congress again within the next twenty-four hours and detail with definiteness the steps he proposes to take under the authority he has asked from Congress to protect American shipping.

Had Full Reports.

When the Secretary of State went to the White House he had with him detailed reports on the Laconia sinking from Consul Frost at Queenstown. These reports stated specifically that the vessel was sunk without warning at night, and that two American women, Mrs. Mary E. and Miss Elizabeth Hoy, of Chicago, lost their lives.

The consensus of opinion was that the President would not declare war; that he would expect Congress to go to extraordinary lengths to grant him the powers he asked for yesterday to arm American ships and to use "other instrumentalities" that may be necessary to protect American shipping; and that even before such authority was fully granted, he would take steps to arm the ships.

No Extra Session.